

structure. Always looking to improve the quality of rural living, Dennis has been a consistent champion for fair trade, even when the notion has been unpopular to some. Throughout his presidency, Dennis faced some difficult situations. However, he never lost focus on the concerns that are important to South Dakotans and continued to work for the betterment of rural America.

Under Dennis' leadership, SDFU has enhanced the lives of thousands of South Dakotans through various educational programs, particularly those aimed at the younger generation of farmers. Involvement in the SDFU education program jumped from 389 young producers enrolled in camps in 1997, to over 1,200 participants in the most recent camps. These camps teach young people about the benefits of cooperatives and shared responsibility, as well as the important rural values that make South Dakota stronger. As Dennis noted in his farewell speech to SDFU:

The most important Farmers Union is not the Farmers Union of yesterday. It is not the Farmers Union that I inherited from Dallas Tonsager, or the one we enjoy today. The most important Farmers Union is the one we turn over to the next generation of Farmers Union leaders. The most important Farmers Union is the Farmers Union of tomorrow.

Dennis' hard work as president is reflected in the impressive legacy he leaves behind. SDFU has a strong, expanding membership, and prosperous and thriving education program filled with innovative ideas to revitalize South Dakota's rural communities.

It is with great honor that I share Dennis' accomplishments with my colleagues and publicly commend him for excellently serving South Dakota and family farmers. I wish the very best for him, his wife Julie, and his children Dayton, Kyle, Owen, Austin and Elysa.●

HONORING DR. VINE DELORIA, JR.

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I publicly commend Dr. Vine Deloria, Jr., for receiving the American Indian Visionary Award.

Dr. Deloria, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, is a distinguished Native American scholar whose research, writings, and teaching span history, law, religion, and politics. This award, given by the Native American publication, *Indian Country Today*, honors those who display "the highest qualities and attributes of leadership in defending the foundations of American Indian freedom." This is an honor Dr. Deloria richly deserves.

Born in 1933 in Martin, SD., Dr. Deloria has been at the forefront of American Indian activism since the 1960s. As executive director of the National Congress of American Indians

from 1964 to 1967, Dr. Deloria frequently worked with leaders whose experience dated back to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. Consequently, Dr. Deloria attributes his involvement in the Indian movement to working with those influential people, as they encouraged a new breed of activists.

For the past 4 decades, Dr. Deloria has been a voice of influence in Indian history, writing more than twenty books and countless articles and lectures. His works stimulated political thinking and discourse among Indian activists. As Wilma Mankiller, former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, said of Dr. Deloria, "No writer has more clearly articulated the unspoken emotions, dreams and lifeways of contemporary Native people."

Now a retired professor of political science from the University of Arizona and retired professor emeritus from the University of Colorado, Dr. Deloria is still writing and inspiring young activists from his home in Tucson, Arizona. In fact, *Time* magazine recognized Deloria as one of the 11 most influential religious thinkers of the twentieth century. As *Indian Country Today* notes, "Vine Deloria Jr. provided enormous perception, guidance, strategy and sheer analytical heft to the struggle for respect and justice for American Indians."

Dr. Vine Deloria, Jr., is an extraordinary pioneer and supporter of Native American rights and the honor of winning the American Indian Visionary Award is one he highly deserves. He is a man of great scholarship and knowledge, and will continue to shape history for years to come. Dr. Deloria has never sought honors or recognition, but his scholarship has brought him well-deserved accolades. It is an honor for me to share his accomplishments with my colleagues and to publicly commend Dr. Deloria on his talent and commitment to history, understanding, and education.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID A. AUSTIN

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. David A. Austin, an extraordinary man who touched many lives but passed away on November 4, 2004.

Dr. Austin lived a life full of vitality and enthusiasm. He had an accomplished career, always helped others without thought for himself and made his family the center of his life.

Dr. Austin was born in Brattleboro, VT, where he graduated from St. Michael's High School and received his Bachelor of Science from St. Michael's College. From there he went on to medical school at the University of Vermont where he began his lifelong career of healing and helping others.

After receiving his Naval Medical Officer commission, he continued his edu-

cation, graduating from the Naval Deep Sea Diving School here in Washington, DC and the School of Submarine and Undersea Medicine in New London, CT.

After completing his active duty and residency at St. Albans Naval Hospital in New York, Dr. Austin opened his medical practice in Rutland in 1970. When not practicing medicine, he was busy serving the community as a member of the Christ the King Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association and the Mount St. Joseph Academy school board, on both of which he served as president for a time.

Later in life, when many people his age were settling into retirement, he was called up during the first Gulf War to Bahrain to serve his country once again, after which he was awarded the Presidential Meritorious Service Medal.

But one of his greatest honors came last April when his peers in the medical community awarded him the Physician of the Year Award. A better man could not have been recognized.

Dr. Austin will be missed by family, friends and all those he touched with his healing hand.●

TRIBUTE TO ADAM GARDNER, YILEI YANG, ASHLEY SMITH, JACK HARTZ AND BENJAMIN GOWAN

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Adam Gardner, Yilei Yang, Ashley Smith, Jack Hartz and Benjamin Gowan as five truly outstanding students from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The National Honor Society organizes a Scholar's Bowl to foster a spirit of aspiration and hard work in America's students. These Scholar Bowls include testing of each student in five different categories: English, math, science, social studies, and general knowledge. The tests are rigorous and they require a longstanding history as a good student.

Being recognized by this organization is truly an honor and I am pleased to hear that these five students from Kentucky have become the National Honor Society's Scholar Bowl Champions. The four students from duPont Manual High School in Louisville, KY successfully defended their school's title as National Honor Society National Scholar's Bowl Champions. They are Adam Gardner, Yilei Yang, Ashley Smith, and Jack Hartz. One student, Benjamin Gowan, from Nelson County High School in Bardstown, KY, took first place in the test on the individual science subject category. Thanks to the hard work of these young men and women, four out of five of the top scoring students at last year's Scholar's Bowl were from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In their letter to me, the National Honor Society informed me that "these